

**From:** Jim Cason  
**To:** [James\\_Cason@ios.doi.gov](mailto:James_Cason@ios.doi.gov)  
**Subject:** FW: Bears Ears and Gold Butte National Monuments  
**Date:** Friday, April 28, 2017 8:57:20 PM  
**Attachments:** [blob.jpg](#)

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**From:** Sharon Holmes [mailto:[\(b\) \(6\)](#)]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 28, 2017 8:52 PM  
**To:** Janet Wilcox  
**Subject:** Fw: Bears Ears and Gold Butte National Monuments

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Sharon Holmes <[\(b\) \(6\)](#)>  
**To:** Secretary Ryan Zinke <[exsec\\_exsec@ios.doi.gov](mailto:exsec_exsec@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 28, 2017 3:39 PM  
**Subject:** Bears Ears and Gold Butte National Monuments

Unlike Bears Ears, Gold Butte National Monument that was signed into existence at the same time last December, has very little public outcry about its creation. That is because the number of people who have ever made a long hard, 4WD trip to get there, wouldn't fill a large bathroom, and most of them are in jails and prisons month after month awaiting that fair and speedy trial we all though was part of the Constitution we believed in.. But that does not make its creation any less egregious.

There is a really excellent 6 page history of grazing in America, by Dr. Michael Coffman, PhD. Located at: [Michael Coffman -- The Bundy Standoff-A Century of Federal Abuse](#)

**Michael Coffman -- The Bundy Standoff-A  
Century of Federal Abuse**

Something that should be taught in every school in America because it not only explains the land and water issues in America, but the difference between District Courts with their precedents and Common Law Courts on the land. I know that is time consuming to read it in its entirety, but, considering the position your are in, I believe it will be enlightening. It ends rather abruptly in 2014 with the Bundy ranch Standoff between the family of that name and the Bureau of Land Management. But below, I am going to add a post script to that magnificent paper that brings us up to date.

And that will start with the involvement of the Center for Biological Diversity, a litigation factory that threatened to sue the BLM if they did not remove the Bundy cattle (the crime of rustling in the old west- I have a tall tree for Daniel P. Love, Agent in Charge) And now they are at it again in Alaska. There was another player in Nevada and that was the Center for the Conservation of the desert tortoise for lack of funding. When you have completed the reading of Dr. Coffman's paper, please continue below:

**Besides the BLM, Senator Harry Reid and others who may have seen mineral wealth or the opportunity to acquire the Gold Butte area via mitigation of other BLM lands or exchanges, there was another major player, and that was the Center for Biological Diversity CBD, whose stated goal is "To Save Life on Earth." They also got onto the tortoise wagon, but it does not appear that saving even one tortoise was their intent.**

The environmental activist group was incorporated in California in 2004 under the IRS rules known as 501(c)3, for Non Profit Organizations. Other environmentalist groups refer to them as "litigation factory".

First, look at the corporate non profit life of the Center for Biological Diversity. Needing money for big salaries and other expenses of saving life on earth, they like other environmental non-profit activists needed to find a way to raise money to operate on. For some of these groups, it is through membership fees, fundraising projects or governmental or private grants, bequests, etc. Or, in order to avoid all of those mundane functions, they could just go out and find some bigger group who was looking for a place to donate money to get a tax write-off for their donation to a non-profit organization. That would certainly be a lot less effort. And that was CBD's choice. While they do not have to pay any taxes on the money they make or their assets, they do have to file a tax return on a form 990, and did so in the same year as the Bundy standoff when they were so concerned with the plight of the desert tortoise.

Page one of this filing is below:



In 2014 this non-profit activist group had contributions and grants of \$12,911.671 that someone else got a tax deduction on their tax returns for making a donation to them or from donated grant money. Taking into account, everything else on this form, in 2014, the center for Biological Diversity made a profit on operations (income over expenses) of \$17,135,770. That is over 17 Million dollars tax free.

And they threatened to sue the BLM if they did not comply with their demand to remove the Bundy cattle to save the endangered desert tortoise. One other thing was happening in the Nevada desert that affected the tortoises.

Years before, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, under mandate, developed the 220 acre Desert Tortoise Conservation Center outside Las Vegas, but in 2013, money ran out to

continue operating the Center, and they were being forced to close.

By HENRY BREAN LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

October 11, 2014 - 11:07 am

JEAN — After years — perhaps a lifetime — in cushy captivity, desert tortoise No. 6349 spent his first five minutes of freedom hunched motionless under a bush in a rocky dry wash 40 miles southwest of Las Vegas.

Finally, as his human handlers backed away, 6349 poked his head out of his shell and started to explore his new home — slowly, of course.

He had no way of knowing it, but he marks the end of an era. He was part of the final batch to be set free in the wild before the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center shuts down for good in December, after more than 20 years at the southwestern edge of Las Vegas.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced plans to close the 220-acre center last year, after its federal funding was eliminated. Since then, the center's contract operator, the San Diego Zoo's Institute for Conservation Research, has been working with its partners to empty the facility, mostly by releasing healthy tortoises into the wild.

The center was caring for roughly 1,400 of the animals as recently as 18 months ago. Today, all that remain are about 50 adults awaiting shipment to a new exhibit at the Springs Preserve, a research facility in Battle Mountain and the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Utah.

Another 40 hatchlings born at the center will sleep through the winter in covered outdoor pens at the site and be released into the wild next year, said Mike Senn, assistant field supervisor with the Fish and Wildlife Service in Southern Nevada.

Senn said no tortoises have been euthanized — or will be — because of the closure of the center, though some animals have been humanely killed over the past two years because they were too sick to save.

He estimates that about 30 percent of tortoises that came into the center had to be put down for medical reasons.

Since 1989, the desert tortoise has been listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The conservation center was established in the 1990s as a place for developers to put tortoises removed from job sites in booming Clark County, but it soon became the valley's de facto shelter for unwanted pet reptiles.

Eventually this group realized that they had euthanized thousands of tortoises believing, erroneously, that if they showed any sign of a respiratory infection, common in the species, they had to be destroyed. Later, it was realized that in many cases they might have survived the disease years before and were actually immune to it and did not transmit it either.

The area around Jean, Nevada where this and other tortoises were released, had never been designated as range land, so there were no cattle to provide a source of food or moisture to assist the survival of these tortoises.

And did the Center For Biological Diversity step up with any of that \$17 Million of profits from their operations that year? Of course not. They moved on. And when they post job announcements for their well paid activists, the primary education and experience is a

law degree.

Not everyone supports the CBD agenda.

*The Center for Biological Diversity: A litigation Factory that Doesn't Shoot Straight*

By David Quest of Energy in Depth (energyindepth.org) September 29, 2016

"As Energy In Depth has highlighted [before](#), the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) is an extremist "multimillion dollar [litigation factory](#)" that [brags](#) about [ignoring science](#) and the law in pursuit of its agenda. Its agenda is to use "[psychological warfare](#)" to "mock," "destroy" and delay projects of every type – *not* to advocate more effective regulations or to protect the environment. CBD also routinely [misleads elected officials](#) and intentionally [misrepresents important data](#).

CBD doesn't particularly care about the outcome of any particular case it files. It is the ultimate practitioner of the legal philosophy known as "throw it against the wall to see if it sticks." The "win" for CBD is to generate in the [many, many](#) press releases it writes about simply filing cases and pouring sugar into the gas tank of the regulatory process. At CBD, wasting the time and energy of industry, regulatory agencies, and the court system – not to mention taxpayer dollars – is a profession."

And in 2017, what is the Center for Biological diversity doing to "Save Life on Earth"? On April 20, 2017, they filed a lawsuit in Federal Court in Anchorage, Alaska to try to block HJR 69, that was signed into law by President Donald Trump, which moves wildlife management and protection in Alaska's 16 National Wildlife Refuges back to the State of Alaska. The Litigation Factory, funded by tax free dollars, strikes again. Are they willing to use any of their ill-gotten money to actually save or protect the wildlife of Alaska? Of course not. They are lawyers not biologists.

Stop the abuse by revoking their non profit status. These are the people who should be in prison along with FBI informant Greg Burleson who infiltrated the peaceful demonstrators in 2014 at Bundy Ranch and did make threats against law enforcement to try to incite a peaceful crowd. Those who should not be in prison and who have never been convicted, include the Bundy family and their supporters and journalist Peter Santilli who was trying to inform the people. And Dwight and Steve Hammond, who are in prison in Oregon for the second time on the same charges should have their sentences commuted and all rights restored.

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